

# MEMBERSHIP IN THE KINGDOM

## *DISCUSSION 6*

UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR TEACHING THE GOSPEL



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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS DISCUSSION

### Planning for the Discussion

Prepare to teach this discussion by reviewing what took place during your previous visits with the investigators. Plan how you can build upon positive experiences, and anticipate questions and concerns. Specifically, plan (a) what you will do to prepare these investigators to feel the Spirit, (b) when to invite them to make commitments, and (c) how you will follow up to help them keep their commitments.

If the investigators have not yet committed themselves to be baptized or have not yet attended Church meetings, these commitments must be among your major objectives for this discussion. Identify anything that might be holding the investigators back. Make plans for helping them overcome any obstacles.

Review the main principles of this discussion. Then plan how you might present the discussion to build upon experiences you have had with the investigators and meet their needs and interests.

### Doctrinal Overview

We come unto the Father and receive eternal life through Christ. The Church of Christ is organized to help the Saints perfect themselves, proclaim the gospel, and redeem the dead. The Church helps all the children of our Heavenly Father to enter the strait and narrow path to eternal life. The main principles of this discussion are—

1. Jesus Christ is our Creator, Redeemer, Savior, and Judge.
2. Exaltation comes through Christ. His Church helps us progress toward perfection.
3. The Church and its members have a responsibility for perfecting the Saints.
4. The Church and its members have a responsibility for proclaiming the gospel.
5. The Church and its members have a responsibility for redeeming the dead.
6. We can follow the strait and narrow path to perfection.

### Commitments

During this discussion you need to help the investigators feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. This will prepare them to make the commitments that lead to conversion and baptism. During this discussion the investigators should commit themselves to—

- Actively take part in fulfilling the mission of the Church.

In addition, you should reinforce their commitment to be baptized. Help them resolve firmly to continue living according to all the commitments they have made.

## CREATE A LEARNING ATMOSPHERE

### DISCUSSION

#### Establish a Reverent Atmosphere and Continue to Build Relationships of Trust

#### Review

### TEACHING HELPS

Set a reverent and relaxed teaching atmosphere. Strengthen the relationship of trust between you and the investigators.

Invite the family head to ask someone to pray. If the investigators have not yet prayed themselves, encourage the family head to offer the prayer. As appropriate, use the "Instruction on Prayer" in the instruction booklet.

Review the following things with the investigators. Use the study guide for the fifth discussion in reviewing the Book of Mormon readings, the previous discussion, and the commitments.

*Book of Mormon.* Review what the investigators have read in the Book of Mormon. Answer any questions they have about what they have read. Find out—

- Which passages impressed them the most.
- What questions they have.
- How they feel about what they have read.

*Previous Discussion.* Review briefly the principles discussed in the fifth discussion. Discuss with the investigators any questions they have, and help them resolve any concerns.

*Previous Commitments and Spiritual Experiences.* As directed by the Spirit, review with the investigators their progress in keeping their commitments. Review their preparation to be baptized on (date). Discuss any moments when they have felt the influence of the Spirit since they began learning about the Church. Find out—

- How the investigators have felt as they have lived according to the Word of Wisdom.
- What interested them most as they attended Church meetings on Sunday.
- How they feel about the Church and their associations with Church members.
- How they have felt as they have read in the Book of Mormon and the study guides.
- How they have felt as they have prayed about the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith, and the other things you have taught them.

### DISCUSSION

#### Introduce This Discussion

### TEACHING HELPS

- Whether they feel they have received an answer to their prayers. How has the answer come?
- How they have felt as they have thought and prayed about being baptized.

Explain that you have discussed the plan our Father has for us. You have discussed the central role of Christ and his atonement in that plan. The objective of these discussions has been to help the investigators find out whether this message is true. Then they can come unto Christ by being baptized into his Church. This time you will discuss more about the role of Christ and his Church in fulfilling the plan of salvation.



## PRINCIPLE 1 THE ROLES OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE PLAN OF SALVATION

### DISCUSSION

#### Jesus Christ Is the Creator

We have faith in Jesus Christ for many reasons. He is the Creator. [Read and discuss Mosiah 3:8.] Under the direction of his Father, he created the earth and everything on the earth. He gave us everything we have.

#### He Is Our Redeemer and Savior

He is our Redeemer and Savior. Through his sacrifice, we can return to live with him and our Father.

#### He Is Our Judge

Jesus Christ will be our Judge. When our mortal life is over, he will judge us by our works and desires. He will be our advocate with the Father.

### TEACHING HELPS

JESUS CHRIST	
Creator	
Redeemer and Savior	Judge

**Testify:** Express your feelings about—

- Jesus Christ as our Creator, Redeemer, and Judge.
- The need to have faith in Christ.

### SCRIPTURAL RESOURCES

### EXAMPLES

Moroni 7:27-28 (Because of the Atonement, Christ has received from the Father the right to offer mercy to those who exercise faith in him.)

John 1:1-14 (All things were made by the Word, who “was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”)

John 5:22, 30 (“The Father. . . hath committed all judgment unto the Son.”)

Colossians 1:16-17 (By the Son all things were created.)

Hebrews 1:1-3 (God made the worlds by his Son.)

1 John 2:1 (“We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”)

D&C 137:9 (The Lord “will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts.”)

*Topical Guide:* Jesus Christ, Creator; Jesus Christ, Judge; Jesus Christ, Redeemer (see related headings under Jesus Christ)

## PRINCIPLE 2 EXALTATION THROUGH CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

### DISCUSSION

#### Exaltation Is the Greatest Gift of God

During our visits with you, we have emphasized that we must strive to become more like our Heavenly Father. We must strive to become worthy of returning to him. The privilege of dwelling with our Father is his greatest gift to us. We call this gift exaltation, eternal life, or salvation. It is given to those who are worthy and have prepared themselves for it during this life. To become worthy of exaltation, we must be freed from spiritual death through the atonement of Christ.

#### Immortality Is Given to All People

Exaltation is greater than the gift of immortality. We achieve immortality because Christ overcame physical death through his resurrection. Immortality is a free gift to all people, whether they are righteous or wicked. Each of us will live again after this life.

#### Exaltation through Christ

The atonement of Christ removes all obstacles from our path if we accept him and follow his perfect example. Thus, we can come unto the Father and obtain the gift of exaltation only through the Savior, Jesus Christ. [*Read and discuss John 14:6.*]

#### The Church Helps Us Progress

Through membership in the Church of Jesus Christ, we can receive the ordinances, spiritual guidance, and fellowship we need to progress toward exaltation.

### TEACHING HELPS

#### Find Out—

- Whether the investigators understand what immortality and eternal life are.
- Whether they believe that we can come to our Father in Heaven only through Christ.
- How they feel about Jesus Christ.

#### Testify: Express your feelings about—

- Your assurance that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and that through him you can inherit eternal life.
- Your need to rely on the Savior for your exaltation.

### SCRIPTURAL RESOURCES

2 Nephi 9:13 ("All men become incorruptible, and immortal.")

D&C 14:7 (The gift of eternal life is the greatest of all the gifts of God.)

D&C 93:19 ("Know how to worship, and know what you worship, that you may come unto the Father in my name.")

D&C 132:12 ("No man shall come unto the Father but by me or by my word.")

*Topical Guide:* Father; God

### EXAMPLES

### PRINCIPLE 3 THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH: PERFECTING THE SAINTS

#### DISCUSSION

##### Come unto Christ by Being Baptized

Our purpose has been to invite you to come unto Christ by being baptized into his Church. The Church is organized to help all of the children of our Heavenly Father receive eternal life.

##### We Work for the Salvation of Others

[Read and discuss Moses 1:39.] As members of the Church, we have the privilege of helping the Lord to bring to pass the eternal life of his children. This work involves three main missions:

##### The First Mission: To Perfect the Saints

First, we work to perfect the Saints. (When the scriptures speak of Saints, they refer to those who have accepted Christ by being baptized into his Church.) Through the Church of Jesus Christ, each member receives great strength and many opportunities to serve others. In this way the Church helps us learn and grow toward perfection.

##### We Receive Truth and Inspired Guidance

In the Church we receive continuing guidance from inspired leaders chosen by the Lord. Through these leaders, the Lord speaks to us and ensures that the true gospel of Jesus Christ is taught.

#### TEACHING HELPS

##### MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Perfect the  
Saints.

Proclaim the  
gospel.

Redeem the  
dead.

*Scripture:* Ephesians 4:11-12 (Christ established his church "for the perfecting of the saints.")

#### DISCUSSION

##### We Receive Gospel Ordinances

In the Church we administer and receive the ordinances of the gospel. Through them we enter into important covenants with God. These ordinances allow us to be cleansed of our sins and imperfections. They make it possible for us to enjoy the companionship of the Holy Ghost.

##### We Receive Fellowship and Strength

In the Church we enjoy the fellowship of other Church members. We help and encourage one another to live Christlike lives. This fellowship gives us strength to endure the pressures of everyday life and avoid temptations.

##### We Serve Others

As the members take an active part in the Church, they grow by teaching, strengthening, and serving one another. The congregations of the Church do not have a full-time, professional clergy. So all members teach one another the gospel and lighten one another's burdens. These opportunities to serve are the source of great blessings.

#### TEACHING HELPS

##### Find Out—

- Whether the investigators understand why the Church organization is essential.
- Whether they understand the blessings that come to us through the Church.
- How they have felt as they have prepared to be baptized into the Church.

##### Testify: Express your feelings about—

- The blessings that have come to you from your Church membership.
- The importance of Church membership.

#### SCRIPTURAL RESOURCES

Mosiah 18:17-29 (Alma organizes the Church and describes its basic functions.)

Moroni 6 (Moroni explains the operation of the Church.)

Luke 22:32 ("When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.")

Acts 20:28, 35 (Take heed to all the flock over which you are overseers.)

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (The body of Christ—the Church—has need of every member.)

Galatians 6:2 ("Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.")

1 Peter 4:10 ("As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another.")

1 Peter 5:2 ("Feed the flock of God which is among you.")

*Topical Guide:* Church

#### EXAMPLES

To show why membership in the Church is necessary:

Fellowship with other members is like a fire made with many logs. Together, the logs make a great fire and generate much heat. But if the logs are separated to burn individually, they soon cool. Instead of bright flames, they produce a dull glow. If they are left alone, soon the glow will die. Church members need to meet together to share convictions, to learn from one another, and to feel the strength and support of one another.



## PRINCIPLE 4 THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH: PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL

### DISCUSSION

#### We Share the Gospel with Others

The second way we work for the salvation of others is to proclaim the gospel to those who have not yet received it. When we accept the gospel of Jesus Christ, we also accept the responsibility of sharing it with others. [Read and discuss D&C 88:81.] As a member of the Church, you will want to share the blessings you have received with your friends and relatives. Through your example and friendship, they will see how the gospel brings joy into your life.

#### We Should Invite Friends to Learn More

Your life will demonstrate to your friends the great blessings that come from the gospel. You should help them develop the desire to learn more about the Church. You should then invite your friends to talk with the missionaries.

### TEACHING HELPS

#### Find Out—

- Whether the investigators understand that each person who receives the gospel is responsible for sharing it with others.
- How they feel about the need to share the gospel with their friends and relatives.

#### Testify: Express your feelings about—

- The importance of sharing the gospel with others.
- The blessings that have come to you through missionary service.

**Invite:** When the investigators are feeling the influence of the Spirit, ask them to make a list of the friends and relatives they want to invite to their baptism.

### SCRIPTURAL RESOURCES

Mosiah 28:3 (The sons of Mosiah could not bear the thought "that any human soul should perish.")

Mark 16:15 ("Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.")

1 Corinthians 9:16 ("Necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!")

D&C 4 ("The field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might . . . bringeth salvation to his soul.")

D&C 15:6 ("The thing which will be of the most worth unto you will be to . . . bring souls unto [Christ].")

D&C 18:10-16 ("How great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!")

D&C 38:40-42 (Every elder, priest, teacher, and member should preach the gospel.)

*Topical Guide:* Missionary Work

### EXAMPLES

To show the urgency of sharing what we have found:

Imagine that you are living just below a large dam. One day you notice a leak in the dam, and you realize that the dam soon will break. Would you mention casually to your family and friends that a problem may be developing? Or would you urgently do everything possible to warn others to flee from the danger? We should have much the same concern about sharing the saving truths of the gospel with those who have not yet heard them. The Lord has said, "It becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor" (D&C 88:81).

You might discuss the experience of Enos or of the sons of Mosiah in the Book of Mormon. Show how those who have experienced the blessings of the Atonement in their own lives have a great concern that others enjoy the same blessings.

## PRINCIPLE 5 THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH: REDEEMING THE DEAD

### DISCUSSION

#### We Can Perform Temple Ordinances

The third way we work for the salvation of others is to perform sacred ordinances in temples. First we receive these ordinances for ourselves. Then we can perform the same ordinances for those who did not receive the gospel in this life.

#### We Can Do Genealogical Research

You can learn about your ancestors through genealogical research. Then, as a member of the Church, you can perform baptisms and the other necessary ordinances for those who are dead. One of these important ordinances is eternal marriage, which makes it possible for us to be together as families forever.

#### We Must Be Worthy to Attend the Temple

Because temples are sacred, only members of the Church who meet high standards of righteousness may enter. Your bishop can talk to you about entering a temple after you have been a member for at least one year. He will ask you questions to make sure you are meeting the required standards. Then you can receive sacred ordinances for yourself and also perform them for the dead.

### TEACHING HELPS

#### Find Out—

- Whether the investigators understand how those who died without accepting the gospel are given the opportunity to receive the gospel and the necessary ordinances.
- Whether they understand the role of the temple in the work for the dead.
- How they feel about the need to search out their dead ancestors.
- How they feel about preparing themselves to enter the temple.

#### Testify: Express your feelings about—

- How temple work for the dead shows the love and justice of God.
- How temple work enables us to show our love for one another.
- The blessings that come from working in the temple for the salvation of others.

### SCRIPTURAL RESOURCES

John 5:25 ("The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God.")

1 Corinthians 15:29 ("What shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all?")

1 Peter 3:18-19 (Christ "preached unto the spirits in prison.")

1 Peter 4:6 ("For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead.")

D&C 2 (Elijah "shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers.")

D&C 124:28-32 (The Saints are commanded to build a house in order to perform ordinances for the dead.)

D&C 128 (Joseph Smith gives directions on baptism for the dead.)

D&C 138 (Joseph F. Smith relates his vision of the redemption of the dead.)

*Topical Guide:* Genealogy and Temple Work; Salvation for the Dead

### EXAMPLES

To show the blessings that come from work for the dead:

If appropriate, you might tell about a time when your family or someone you know enjoyed the blessings that come from genealogy and temple work.

## PRINCIPLE 6 THE STRAIT AND NARROW PATH

### DISCUSSION

#### We Can Follow the Path to Perfection

When you are baptized on (date), you will have started on the path that leads to perfection and eternal life with our Father in Heaven. [Read and discuss 2 Nephi 31:17-21.] To endure to the end in following this path requires great faith and effort. But enduring to the end also brings joy and peace. You can know you are living in a way that pleases your Father in Heaven.

#### Come unto Christ through Baptism

The Holy Ghost will help you follow the strait and narrow path. You will be worthy to have the guidance of the Holy Ghost in your life if you—

- Repent of your sins.
- Are baptized.
- Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- Keep the commandments.
- Serve in the Church.

#### Commitment Invitation: Take Part in the Church

After your baptism, will you actively take part in fulfilling the mission of the Church to perfect the Saints, proclaim the gospel, and redeem the dead?

### TEACHING HELPS

#### COME UNTO CHRIST THROUGH BAPTISM

Exercise faith.  
Repent of your sins.  
Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.  
Be baptized.  
Keep the commandments.  
Serve in the Church.

#### Find Out—

- Whether the investigators understand what it means to endure to the end in following the strait and narrow path.
- How they feel about their personal responsibility to do all they can to stay on the path to eternal life.

#### Testify: Express your feelings about—

- The importance of growing and progressing spiritually each day.
- The peace and joy that come from knowing you are on the path to eternal life with our Father in Heaven.
- The truth of all that you have taught during the discussions.

**Discuss:** Confirm the investigators' scheduled baptism date (or invite them to be baptized if you have not already done so). Discuss any further preparation that is needed and how you can help.

### SCRIPTURAL RESOURCES

3 Nephi 27:16-17 ("Whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father.")

Moroni 10:32-33 ("Come unto Christ, and be perfected in him.")

Matthew 7:13-14 ("Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life.")

Matthew 7:21-24 ("Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father.")

Philippians 2:12 ("Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.")

*Topical Guide:* Grace, Man May Fall from; Perfection, Perfect, Perfectly

### EXAMPLES

To show the need to stay on the path to eternal life:

Discuss Lehi's vision of the tree of life (see 1 Nephi 8).



## CONCLUSION

### DISCUSSION

#### Additional Commitments

### TEACHING HELPS

#### *Baptism*

Strengthen the investigators' commitment to be baptized on (date).

#### *Taking Part in the Home Teaching Lessons*

Make sure you obtain a firm commitment for the investigators to take part in the home teaching lessons for new members. The first lesson should be given within ten days after baptism. Set an appointment when you and the home teachers will present the first lesson. If home teachers have not yet been assigned, work through the ward mission leader to see that this is done immediately. Introduce the home teachers to the investigators.

#### *Word of Wisdom*

Strengthen the investigators' commitment to continue living the Word of Wisdom. Discuss their progress in keeping their commitment and any ways you can help.

#### *Tithing*

Strengthen the investigators' commitment to live the law of tithing when they are baptized. Provide reinforcement if necessary.

#### *Chastity*

If necessary, strengthen the investigators' commitment to live the law of chastity.

#### *Reading and Praying*

Help the investigators commit themselves to continue reading in the Book of Mormon and praying to know the truth of what they are learning.

#### *Attending Church Meetings*

Confirm the investigators' plans to attend Church meetings. Invite them to attend if they have not already attended. Discuss how you can help them.

### DISCUSSION

#### Study Guide

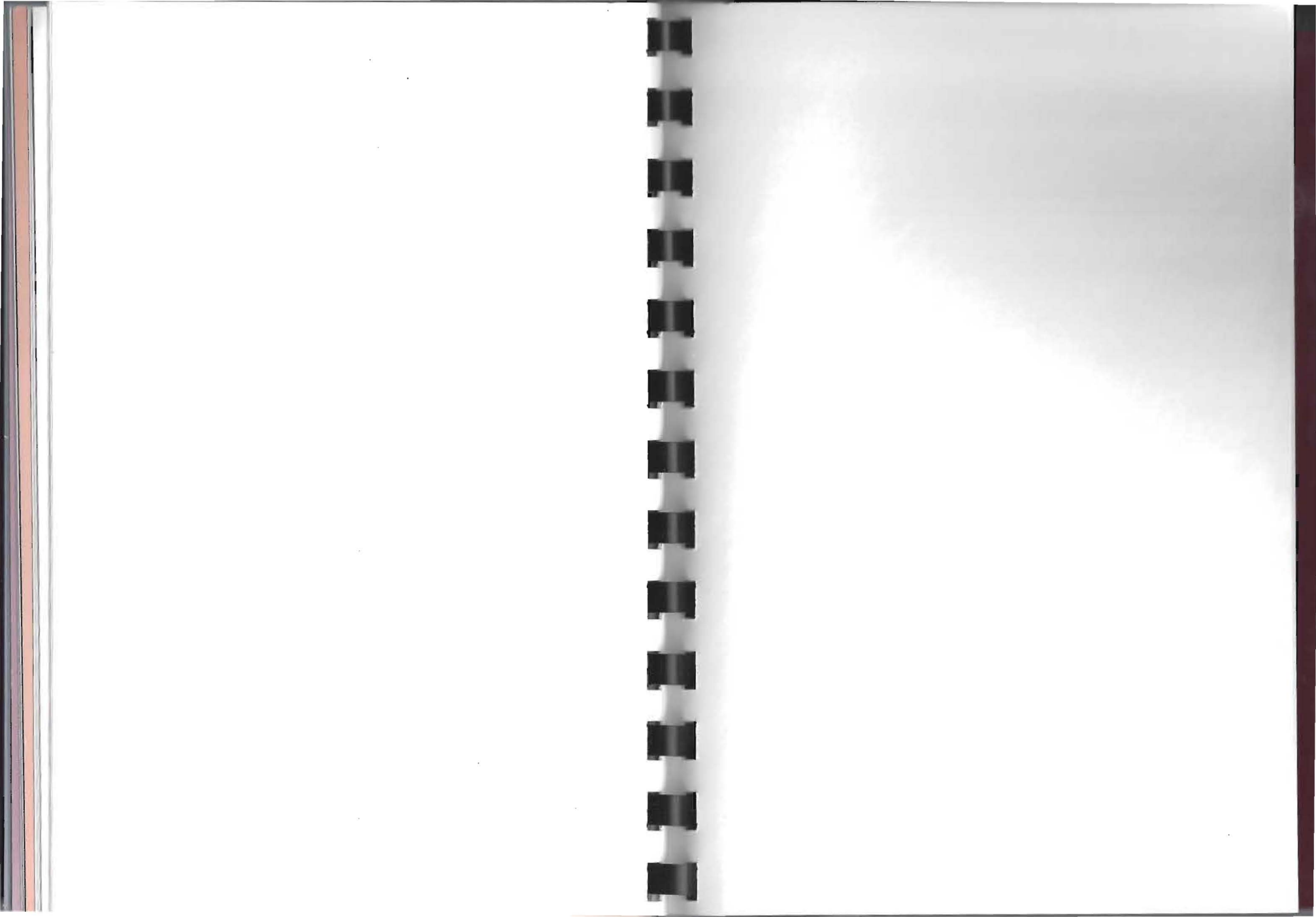
### TEACHING HELPS

Use the study guide for this discussion to review the principles you have discussed and the commitments the investigators have made. Mark any scriptures to which you want to draw special attention. Fill out the information on the back of the study guide, including the date for the next appointment. Explain that you will be glad to answer any questions during your next visit.

#### Close with Prayer

By now the investigators should be willing to offer the prayer. Suggest that the family head ask one of them to pray. If necessary, use the "Instruction on Prayer" in the instruction booklet to reinforce the basic pattern of prayer.





THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

